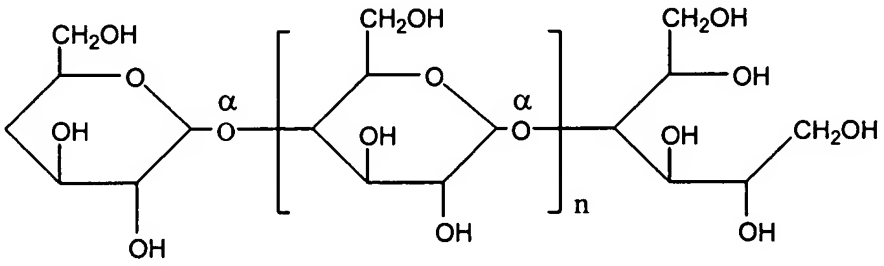
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

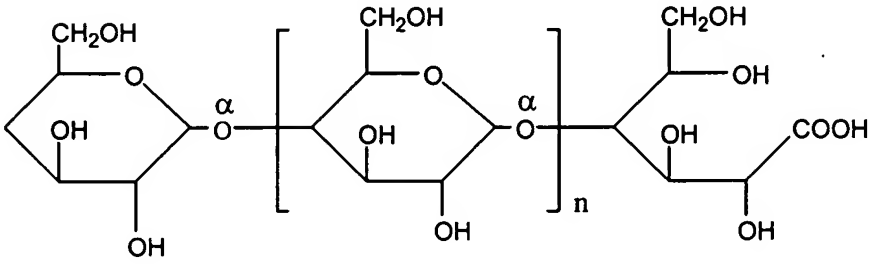
Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A sterilized peritoneal dialysis solution comprising:

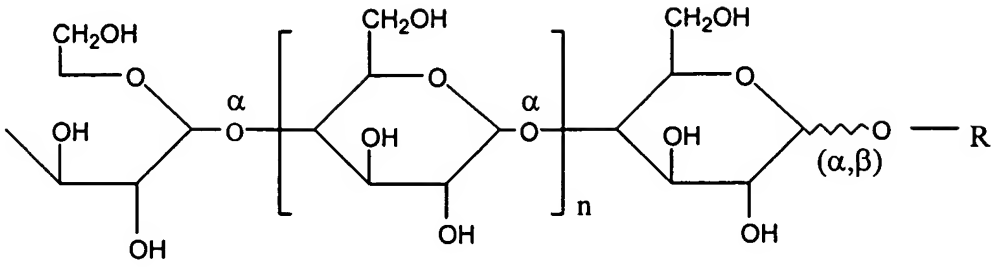
a starch comprising a glucose polymer selected from the group consisting of D-glucitol having the formula:



and gluconic acid having the formula



and alkylglycoside having the formula



wherein R is selected from the group consisting of CH_3, CH_3CH_2, $(CH_2OH)_2CH$, $CH_2(OH)CH(OH)CH_2$, and $[CH_2(OH)CH(OH)CH_2(OH)]CH$, and wherein the polymer is linked by α-1,4 bonds, that comprise at least 85%, by number, of the linkages.

Claim 2 (original) The peritoneal dialysis solution of claim 1 wherein the solution is substantially free of formaldehyde.

Claim 3 (original) The peritoneal dialysis solution of claim 1 wherein the solution is substantially free of furfurals.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The peritoneal dialysis solution of claim 1 wherein the partially hydrolyzed starch is substantially free of terminal aldehyde groups.

Claim 5 (currently amended) A method of administering an autoclavable osmotic agent to a subject in need thereof comprising the steps of:

preparing ~~wherein~~ the osmotic agent ~~is prepared~~ by the steps comprising: providing a solution of starch dissolved in water; ~~and~~ adding $NaBH_4$ to the starch solution to reduce the starch; and

administering a resultant osmotic agent to the subject.

Claim 6 (original) The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of

purifying the reduced starch solution by passing the reduced starch solution through an anionic exchange resin.

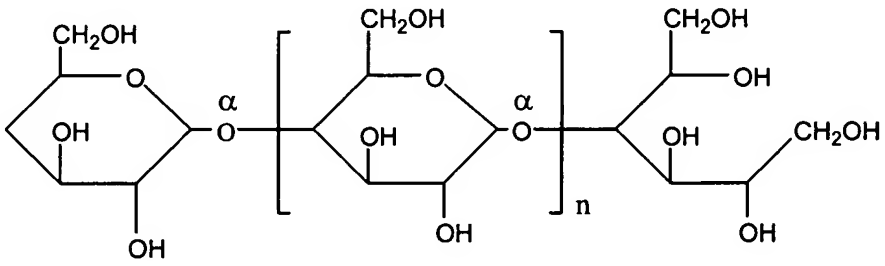
Claim 7 (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the dissolving and adding steps are carried out at room temperature.

Claim 8 (original) The method of claim 6 further comprising the following step after the adding step and prior to the purifying step:

allowing the solution to stand for about 10 hours.

Claim 9 (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the starch is maltodextrin.

Claim 10 (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the starch is reduced to an icodextrin linked predominately by α-1,4 bonds and having the formula:



Claim 11 (currently amended) A method of administering a sterilizable osmotic agent to a subject in need thereof ~~wherein the osmotic agent is prepared by the steps comprising:~~ comprising the steps of:

preparing an osmotic agent by providing a solution of starch dissolved in water~~;~~, providing a solution of NaOCl~~;~~, ~~and~~ adding the NaOCl solution to the starch solution to oxidize the starch; and

administering the resultant osmotic agent to the subject.

Claim 12 (original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of

purifying the oxidized starch solution by passing the oxidized starch solution through a gel permeation chromatograph.

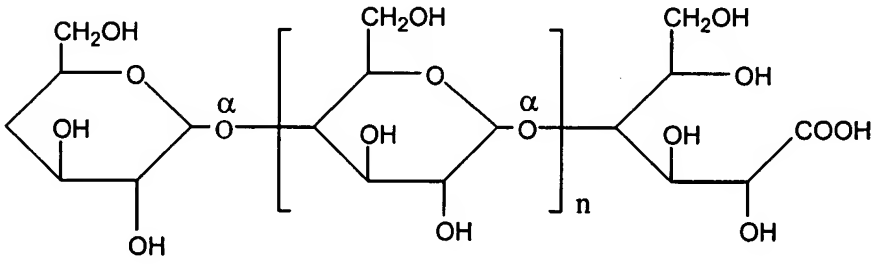
Claim 13 (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the adding step is carried out at room temperature.

Claim 14 (original) The method of claim 12 further comprising the following step after the adding step and prior to the purifying step:

allowing the solution to stand for about 2 hours.

Claim 15 (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the starch is maltodextrin.

Claim 16 (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the starch is oxidized to an icodextrin linked predominately by α-1,4 bonds and having the formula:



Claim 17 (currently amended) A method of administering a sterilizable osmotic agent to a subject in need of same ~~wherein the osmotic agent is prepared by the steps comprising~~ comprising the steps of:

dissolving starch in an acid and an alcohol selected from the group consisting of methanol, butanol and glycerol as part of a process of preparing the sterilizable osmotic agent; and

administering the sterilizable osmotic agent to the subject.

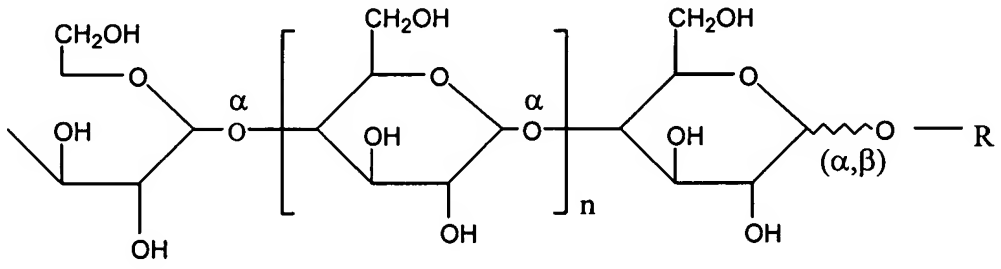
Claim 18 (original) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of stirring the starch, alcohol and acid for about 2 hours.

Claim 19 (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the stirring step is carried out at a temperature of about 100°C.

Claim 20 (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the starch is maltodextrin.

Claim 21 (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the acid is HCl.

Claim 22 (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the starch is glycosylated to an icodextrin linked predominately by α-1,4 bonds and having the formula:



wherein R is selected from the group consisting of CH_3, CH_3CH_2 and $(CH_2OH)_2CH$.